

RESOLUTION NO. 08-28

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HIALEAH, FLORIDA OPPOSING PROPOSED STATE LEGISLATIVE CUTBACKS FOR FUNDING THE SCHOOL READINESS GRANT THAT WILL RESULT IN THE ELIMINATION OF 1,400 TO 2,200 SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE SLOTS IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY; THAT WILL RESULT IN A LOSS OF \$30 MILLION IN ELIGIBLE FUNDS; AND THAT WILL NEGATIVELY IMPACT UNDERSERVED CHILDREN WHO ARE AT THE GREATEST RISK OF FUTURE FAILURE IN SCHOOL.

WHEREAS, the Office of Early Learning within the Agency for Workforce Innovation (“AWI” or “Agency”) serves as the lead in administering and supporting early learning and child care programs in Florida, including the School Readiness Program under section 411.01, Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, AWI administers the state’s early learning programs through grant awards for services with 31 local early learning coalitions that ensure families access to high-quality child care programs throughout the state, thereby allowing working parents the opportunity to achieve economic self-sufficiency and break the cycle of poverty; and

WHEREAS, the Agency, from July 1999 when it initially received the School Readiness Program to the present has not received an increase in funding; and

WHEREAS, the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade and Monroe provides services to more than 48,000 children, and any reduction in funds would negatively impact children who are at the greatest risk for school failure in school; and

WHEREAS, the proposed general revenue budget cuts will affect the state’s ability to draw down federal dollars to support the School Readiness program representing a loss of \$30 million dollars in Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, the impact of these cuts will be felt specifically by low income (at or below 150% of the federal poverty level) families in our community and will prevent the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade and its contracted agency, the Department of Human Services Child Development Services, from serving 1,400 to 2,200 children in Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, the Florida economy needs a working class for growth and sustainability and at the same time, parents need high-quality child care as an essential service; and

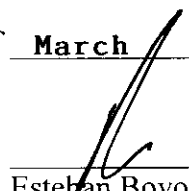
WHEREAS, these reductions in funding for child care would be detrimental, inimical and contrary to maintaining a reasonable quality of life for the children in Miami-Dade County and throughout the State.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HIALEAH, FLORIDA, THAT:

Section 1: The foregoing facts and recitations contained in the preamble to this resolution are hereby adopted and incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

Section 2: The Mayor and the City Council of the City of Hialeah, Florida hereby opposes proposed state legislative cutbacks for funding the School Readiness Grant that will result in the elimination of 1,400 to 2,200 subsidized child care slots in Miami-Dade County; that will result in a loss of \$30 million in eligible funds; and that will negatively impact underserved children who are at the greatest risk of future failure in school.

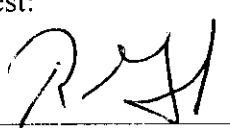
PASSED AND ADOPTED this 25th day of March, 2008.



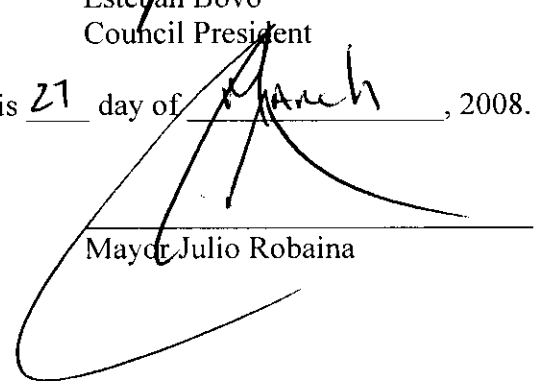
Esteban Bovo
Council President

Attest:

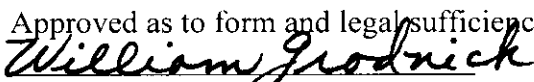
Approved on this 27 day of March, 2008.



Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk



Mayor Julio Robaina

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:


William M. Grodnick, City Attorney

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Resolution was adopted by a 5-0-2 vote with Councilmembers Bovo, Caragol, Casals-Muñoz, Hernandez, and Yedra voting "Yes" and Councilmembers Garcia-Martinez and Gonzalez absent.